

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-02

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R 091732Z MAY 77
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 03602

FOR STATE EUR/CAN

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - OPENING, LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S
LEAD EDITORIAL, MAY 6, 1977, DEALING WITH THE LONDON
ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER:

"THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT OPENING THIS WEEKEND IN LONDON IS THE
THIRD OF A SERIES OF GET-TOGETHERS BY THE LEADERS OF THE
UNITED STATES, JAPAN, GERMANY , BRITAIN, FRANCE AND ITALY
AND, STARTING WITH THE SECOND OF THE SERIES, CANADA. THE
RECORD SO FAR IS UNIMPRESSIVE. BUT THE ACTIVIST JIMMY
CARTER IS NOW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE THIRD
IN THE SERIES IS SHAPING UP AS A VERY DIFFERENT KETTLE OF
FISH, MORE LIKELY TO BOIL OVER THAN TO EVAPORATE.

"IF THE PARTICIPANTS WANTED TO USE THE CONFERENCE FOR THE
PURPOSE FOR WHICH KENNETH GALBRAITH SAYS ALL CONFERENCES
ARE INTENDED, TO MAKE IT SEEM THAT SOMETHING IS BEING DONE
WHEN THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE, THE AGENDA WOULD
PROVIDE EXCUSES ENOUGH. FOR THE CONFERENCE HAS ON ITS
PLATE, IN ONE SHAPE OR ANOTHER, MOST OF THE SYMPTOMS OF A
WORLD GONE TOPSY-TURVY, A WORLD THAT CAN NOW BE SEEN TO
CONFOUND THE MOST BASIC EXPECTATIONS WITH WHICH EVEN ITS
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YOUNGEST ADULTS GREW UP.
"THE INDUSTRIAL POWERS, EAST AND WEST, MAY TALK AS IF
EUROPE STILL WEIGHED HEAVILY IN THE WORLD BALANCE. BUT
THEY ACT AS IF THE POWER STRUGGLE THAT MATTERED WAS THE
ONE IN AFRICA.
"THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION, DESIGNED AS A
DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE TO BE MADE MORE EFFICIENT BY USE OF

STANDARD WEAPONS AND MATERIAL, HAS BECOME, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A COCKPIT FOR CUT-THROAT COMPETITION IN WEAPONS SALES, THE AMERICAN JET FIGHTER OR THE FRENCH, THE GERMAN TANK OR THE AMERICAN. DIRTY TRICKS ARE PART OF THE GAME, MUCH AS IN THE SALE OF CANADIAN NUCLEAR REACTORS.

"THUS IT IS A PARALYZING TANGLE THAT WILL CONFRONT MR CARTER'S ACTIVISM. MR CARTER WANTS TO PUT SOME BRAKES ON THE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION RACE AND THE ARMAMENT SALES CONTEST. BUT FRANCE AND GERMANY, AS THE ONLY INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES SPECIALIZING IN THE SALE OF THE TECHNOLOGY FOR REPROCESSING NUCLEAR REACTOR WASTE INTO WEAPONS GRADE PLUTONIUM, HAVE JOBS AND EXPORTS TO LOSE. AND ARMS SALES ARE IMPORTANT SOURCES OF EMPLOYMENT IN FRANCE, GERMANY, BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

"MR CARTER WANTS PROSPEROUS GERMANY AND JAPAN TO STIMULATE THEIR ECONOMIES AND THUS HELP THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN BEHIND, ITALY, BRITAIN AND CANADA, WITH THEIR TRADE DEFICITS. IT IS ASKING A LOT. HE ALSO WANTS TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD ACCOMODATION OF THIRD WORLD DEMANDS FOR STABILIZATION OF COMMODITY PRICES AND NEW DEBT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS. ON THIS HE MIGHT ACHIEVE SOME GAINS. FOR UNTIL HE CAME TO POWER IT WAS FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE STRONGEST RESISTANCE CAME. THIS IS AN ISSUE TO WHICH CANADA HAS SHOWN SOME SENSITIVITY AS IT HAS, BELATEDLY, TO THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. BUT ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, A PRIORITY WITH MR CARTER, CANADA HAS LITTLE TO SAY.

"MR CARTER IN HIS CONVENTION VICTORY SPEECH, ALLUDED TO BOB DYLAN'S LINE 'HE NOT BUSY BEING BORN IS BUSY DYING.' IT'S TRUE OF WORLDS, TOO. MR CARTER AND HIS COUNTERPARTS
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MAY HAVE THAT IN MIND AS THEY GATHER IN LONDON."

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE LEAD EDITORIAL OF THE OTTAWA JOURNAL, DATED MAY 6, 1977:

"IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF THE PRESENT INDIFFERENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND WEST GERMANY. THERE IS NOTHING FUNDAMENTALLY AWRY. IF CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT GETS THE RIGHT ANSWERS FROM PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO THE QUESTIONS THE GERMAN LEADER HAS CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE AMONG THE SEVEN LEADERS ATTENDING NEXT WEEK'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN LONDON, HIS DOUBTS WILL QUICKLY DRY UP. MR CARTER DOES HAVE A KNACK OF REASSURING SKEPTICS, AND HE WILL PROBABLY TAKE PAINS TO SHOW MR SCHMIDT THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY. "ABOVE ALL, THE GERMANS RESENT THE PRESSURE WHICH HAS BEEN PUT ON THEM - AND NOT ONLY BY THE AMERICANS - TO EXPAND THEIR ECONOMY FOR THE GOOD OF THE WEST'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY. TO MR SCHMIDT THAT IS NOTHING LESS THAN EXPORTING

INFLATION TO GERMANY AND MAKING GERMANY PAY FOR THE
ECONOMIC SINS AND WEAKNESSES OF OTHERS.

"THE GERMANS ARE ALMOST AS EXERCISED OVER AMERICAN
OPPOSITION TO THEIR NUCLEAR POWER DEAL WITH BRAZIL. THEY
ARGUE THAT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER NATIONS SUCH AS BRAZIL WILL
HAVE NUCLEAR ENERGY AND THAT MR CARTER'S MORAL STRICTURES-
WHICH ARE COMING LATE IN THE NUCLEAR DAY - WILL NOT CHANGE

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THAT FACT.

"MR CARTER WILL PROBABLY FIND IT EASIER TO BE REASSURING
ABOUT HIS SOVIET POLICY, IF HE IS ABLE TO ARTICULATE
PRECISELY WHAT IT IS.

"BASICALLY MR SCHMIDT WANTS REASSURANCE. GERMANY IS PASS-
ING THROUGH A PERIOD OF SELF-DOUBT. THE GERMANS BELIEVE
THEY HAVE PLAYED THE GAME WITH THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. THEY
WANT THEIR TOIL AND LOYALTY TO BE
APPRECIATED. MR CARTER HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY INDIFFERENT
TO SUCH SENSIBILITIES. HE SHOULD MAKE AMENDS NEXT WEEK."
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